## AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION

Honorable Director of Patents & Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The present application is the national filing of international application number PCT/GB00/00762. Before calculation of the national filing fee for the United States, is requested that the application be amended as follows:

## In the claims

Amend claims 4, 7 - 9, 11, 13 and 14 as follows:

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 2, in which each set of groups hierarchically arranged, which the members of each group at the bottom level of each hierarchical set being constituted by the data elements of that set, and the members of the or each group in the or each higher level being constituted by groups from the level below, so that, the higher a group in the hierarchy, the larger the number of data elements it contains.